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Message Text

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64
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00

PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 211445Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6723

UNCLAS NIAMEY 3454

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: DIFFA MATERNITY HOSPITAL

REF: A. HILL-FREDERICKS TELECON 13 NOV 73 B. NIAMEY 2336

1. RDO AND BRAUNSTEIN MET WITH DR. BANA AND STAFF, GON/MOH RE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR DIFFA HOSPITAL. ALSO DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH MESSRS. BLISS AND OTTO, CWS, AND MR. KRATZ, DIR FED. SEPARATE INTERIM MESSAGE FOLLOWS ON STATUE FEI-APPROVED MOBILE HEALTH UNITS PROJECT.

2. IRRESPECTIVE BLEAK PICTURE PAINTED BY DR. MURRAY, GON GENERALLY SATISFIED LEVEL EQUIPMENT SUPPORT PROVIDED BY FED AND THEIR OWN BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR MEDICINES AND OPERATIONAL COSTS. HOSPITAL ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED IN 1964 AS ONLY MATERNITY HOSPITAL. AT TIME DIFFA NOT PREFECTURE BUT ONLY ARRONDISSEMENT. FED SUPPORT BASED ON ORIGINAL ASSUMPTION EVEN THOUGHDIFFA NOW PREFECTURE. FED HOSPITAL PROGRAM ONLY ENVISAGED TO PROVIDE MOH WITH MINIMUM BASIC STRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT WHICH NIGER ITSELF COULD MANAGE. ANYTHING BEYOND THIS WOULD REQUIREOTHER DONOR ASSISTANCE. SINCE FED BUILT DIFFA STRUCTURE AND SUPPLYING APPROXIMATELY TEN SIMILAR QUOTE HOSPITALS UNQUOTE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY INDICATIONS ARE GON IS GETTING WHAT IT ASKED FOR. BOTH DONOR AND DONEE APPEAR BASICALLY SATISFIED IN
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KEEPING WITH REALITIES OF DONOR ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.

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3. DIFFA STRUCTURE WAS NOT SCHEDULED FOR OPENING UNTIL AFTER ALL FED EQUIPMENT WAS IN PLACE SCHEDULED FOR LATTER PART OF 1973. IT IS ONLY OPEN NOW BECAUSE MURRAY WAS NOT ASSIGNED BY GON TO MORE SUBSTANTIAL N'GUIGMI HOSPITAL AS ORIGINALLY AGREED BETWEEN GON AND CWS. GON ASSIGNED FRENCH DOCTORS BEFORE ARRIVAL MURRAY. MURRAY CONSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED SMALL CLINIC IN DIFFA WHICH OBVIOUSLY A WASTE HIS TALENTS. THEN GON/MINISTER HEALTH MOSSI AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MURRAY, AGREED ATTEMPT RECTIFY SITUATION BY PREMATURELY PERMITTING MURRAY IN JUNE 73 TO OPEN FED FINANCED FACILITY AS ITS FIRST DOCTOR DESPITE FACT THAT STRUCTURE WAS ILL-EQUIPPED AND THERE WAS NO OPERATIONAL BUDGET UNTIL NEW FISCAL YEAR WHICH IS OCT 1 TO SEP 30 IN NIGER. IN FACT, THIS SITUATION WAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY LATE ARRIVAL AND DELIVERY OF FED EQUIPMENT.

4. IN JUNE ADO/NIAMEY REQUESTED PACKAGE MOBILE HOSPITAL FOR DIFFA ASSUMING IT QUALIFIED UNDER DROUGHT EMERGENCY, HOWEVER, AFTER ON-SITE INSPECTION BY ADO STAFF OFFICER IT DETERMINED WHILE NEED HAS, DOES AND WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, IT NOT REALLY RELATED DROUGHT EMERGENCY AND SHOULD FALL UNDER FED OR CWS ASSISTANCE IF AT ALL. GON/FED ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE NOT PLANNED PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT TO DIFFA WHICH WOULD TURN MEDICAL CENTER INTO A HOSPITAL SUITABLE FOR SERVICES OF DOCTOR OF CALIBER OF MURRAY. THIS RAISES QUESTION OTHER FED-EQUIPPED SO-CALLED HOSPITALS IN NIGER. ARE WE TO QUESTION THEIR LEVEL EQUIPMENT ALSO? DIFFA DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAS TWO HOSPITALS WHICH ARE MORE COMPLETE IN EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES AT MAINE-SOROA AND N'GUIGMI. ONLY APPARENT JUSTIFICATION FOR ANOTHER FULLY EQUIPPED HOSPITAL SEEMS TO BE THAT SMALLER DIFFA TOWN IS DEPARTMENTAL SEAT. SUPPORT FOR THIRD HOSPITAL IN DEPARTMENT AT DIFFA MIGHT, JUST MIGHT BE A GOOD THING. BUT SUCH ASSISTANCE CAN FIND NO ROOM CURRENTLY IN OUR REGALAR ADO REGIONAL PROGRAM SINCE WE ARE NOTIN HOSPITAL EQUIPPING BUSINESS AND IT CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED UNDER DROUGHT EMERGENCY. IN ANY CASE, GON HAS NOT APPROACHED AID FOR HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT SUPPORT NEITHER UNDER DROUGHT CATEGORY NOR DURING FEI EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SURVEY. ADO NOW INFORMED THAT GON/MOH, WITHOUT CONSULTING COORDINATING MIN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION, HAS ON NOV 6 REQUESTED WORLD VISION VOLAG SUBSTANTIAL HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT
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FOR QUOTE DIFFA DEPT AND MAGARIA UNQUOTE.

5. PERHAPS LESSON TO BE LEARNED IS THAT VOLAGS MUST FULLY COORDINATE PLANNED PROGRAMS WITH GOVERNMENTS BEFORE COMMITTING DEDICATED, HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO ASSIGNMENTS WHICH THEY ARE NOT ADEQUATELY THOUGHT OUT. CLEARLY, CWS AND GON DID NOT PROPERLY REPRESENT THE ASSIGNMENT OF DR. MURRAY TO HIM FOR WHAT IT EVENTUALLY BECAME, ONE IN AN ILL-EQUIPPED, LOW-PRIORITY,

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NON-OPERATIONAL HOSPITAL WHICH COULD IN NO WAY USE HIS LEVEL OF COMPETENCE. THAT HE WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE CONSIDERABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HE HAS IS TRULY REMARKABLE.BUCHE

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